resources for ecological stability and people oriented development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

Seizure of Animal Hides

†185. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under a special drive launched by the Department of Commercial Tax on 19th December, 1999, 58 hides of wild animals, including lion's hides, worth Rs. 1.5 to 2.00 crores have been recovered from Sahibabad;

(b) if so, what are the names of wild animals, whom these hides belong to and what action has been taken against the persons involved in large scale killing of wild animals and smuggling hides thereof; and

(c) what is the State-wise number of such incidents since 1998 and what measures have been taken to prevent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Sales Tax Department recovered 58 skins of wild animals at Ghaziabad checkpost. It is difficult to ascertain the cost because these products are not consumed in the country.

(b) The names of wild animals are given in Statement-I (See below). Prosecution has been launched by the State Government against the offenders.

(c) As reported by the State Governments, the number of such incidences is given in Statement-II (See below). The measures taken to prevent such incidences are given in Statement-Ill.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Items seized	Quantity seized (Nos.)
Tiger skins	3
Leopard skins	50
Otter skins	5

Statement-II

Seizure of Wild Life Products (1998—2000)

State	Item	Number Qty. (Kg.)	
	1998		
Assam	Tiger Bone	0	
Delhi	Leopard Skin	3	
Delhi	Tiger Skin	2	
Himachal Pradesh	Leopard Skin	8	
Karnataka	Tiger Skin	5	
Karnataka	Ivory Articles	16	
Karnataka	Ivory Idols	17	
Karnataka	Tusk	24	
Madhya Pradesh	Leopard Skin	1	
Madhya Pradesh	Tiger Skin	1	
Maharashtra	Leopard Skin	3	
Maharashtra	Tiger Skin	1	
Maharashtra	Ivory Articles	61	
Uttar Pradesh	Leopard Skin	13	15
Uitar Pradesh	Tiger Skin	3	

State	Item	Number	Qty.(Kg.)
Uttar Pradesh	Tusk	2	
West Bengal	Tiger Skin 1999	2	
Assam	Rhino Horn	1	'
Andhra Pradesh	Tiger Skin	2	
Delhi	Tiger Skin	1	
Delhi	Ivory		2.25
Madhya Pradesh	Tiger Skin	9	
Madhya Pradesh	Tiger Bones	0	83
Madhya Pradesh	Leopard Skin	15	
Madhya Pradesh	Antlers	0	90
Madhya Pradesh	Cheetal/Sambhar Skin	15	
Maharashtra	Tiger Skin	3	
Maharashtra	Tiger Bones	0	2.5
Maharashtra	Leopard Skin	2	
Maharashtra	Antlers	0	117
Tamil Nadu	Tiger Skin	2	
Tamil Nadu	Tiger Claw	10	
Tamil Nadu	Leopard Skin	1	
Uttar Pradesh	Tiger Skin	14	
Uttar Pradesh	Tiger Bones	0	162
Uttar Pradesh	Leopard Skin	56	
Uttar Pradesh	Fox Skin	5	
Uttar Pradesh	Cheetal Skin	5	
Uttar Pradesh	Cheetal Antler	0	3230
Uttar Pradesh	Tusk	1	
Uttar Pradesh	Rhino Horn		1.5

State	Item	Number	Qty(Kg.)
West Bengal	Tiger Skin	10	
West Bengal	Tusk 2000	2	
Uttar Pradesh	Tiger Skin	4	
Uttar Pradesh	Tiger Claw	132	
Uttar Pradesh	Leopard Skin	70	
Uttar Pradesh	Leopard Claw	18000	
Uttar Pradesh	Black Buck Skin	221	

Statement-III

The steps taken to prevent poaching and illegal trade include:

A Special Co-ordination Group has been set up in the Ministry with representatives of Ministry of Home, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Central Bureau of Investigation to monitor anti-poaching activities and for taking effective measures in this regard. It has also been decided to hold meetings every 2 months of Chief Wildlife Wardens of sensitive States for the purpose of intelligence gathering and to take stock of anti-poaching measures. In order to increase the effectiveness of these reviews, the State Police officials are also being invited to these meetings. After the seizure of animal skins in Ghaziabad on December 19, 1999, 2 separate meetings of the Chief Wildlife Wardens and one meeting of the Special Co-ordination Group have been held. Special measures have been taken with effect from June, 1999 to improve the effectiveness of the administration in protected areas as also to extend the protected area network by creation of 4 additional tiger reserves. Some of these measures include:

- ► Availability of special funds to State Governments for creation of Strike Force to curb illegal activities in protected areas.
- ► Special incentive for the officers and staff of tiger reserves who work in very harsh and difficult conditions.

► Increase in compensation for cattle and human mortality due to wild animals.

► Arrangement for training wildlife officers in the National Police Academy in intelligence gathering and crime investigation of wild offences.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has, on the request of the Government of India, has issued notification to entrust the investigation of recent seizures in Khaga, Fatehpur District and Ghaziabad to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Poaching and Killing of Wild Animals

186. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skins and claws of leopards, tigers and black bucks seized in Uttar Pradesh in December, 1999 and January, 2000;

(b) the action taken against those involved; and

(c) the places from where such poaching and killing of wild life are going on unabated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The details of the seizure is given in statement (See below).

(b) The prosecution has been launched against the offenders.

(c) Cases of poaching have been detected both inside and outside the protected areas. However, the incidences of poaching are higher outside the protected areas due to inadequate enforcement infrastructure.